

## National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

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## **Glen Canyon** News Release

## GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE DEEPEN CASTLE ROCK CUT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Page, AZ – Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Superintendent Stan Austin today announced the availability of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Deepen Castle Rock Cut Environmental Assessment (EA). The FONSI, which was signed by National Park Service Regional Director Mike Snyder on November 3, 2008, identifies the selected alternative and is the decision making document for the project.

Two alternatives were evaluated in the EA: Alternative I (the no action alternative) and Alternative 2 (the preferred alternative). The preferred alternative consists of deepening the channel depth of Castle Rock Cut to the 3,580- foot elevation and making the cut available to boats drafting 4 feet or less when the lake level is above the 3,585- foot level. The preferred alternative is the selected alternative because it best meets the purpose and need for the project as well as the project objectives to (I) decrease visitor and staff safety risk factors associated with concentrated use of the Channel, (2) provide more direct access for visitors and staff to uplake locations, thereby decreasing transit time, which may provide a savings on fuel consumption, (3) improve emergency response time to uplake locations, and (4) minimize impacts to the Glen Canyon NRA natural and cultural resources, including the wilderness area on Antelope Island.

The EA was made available for public review and comment during a 30- day period ending March 20, 2008. Most comments expressed support for the project, stating that proceeding with the project would improve boater safety, particularly when passing through the Channel; reduce fuel costs; reduce emissions; reduce water and air pollution caused by boats traveling uplake via the longer route through the Channel; reduce travel time to uplake destinations; and benefit the local economy. A few responses were in opposition to the project, in general stating that the purpose and need are not sufficient to justify the project; the project favors one small special interest group (boaters); the data used for the project do not include climate change or drought; the cost should not be borne by taxpayers; the project would harm the cultural properties of Rainbow Bridge and the Colorado River; and the project would harm natural resources.

Responses to substantive comments received during the public comment period are presented in the Errata Sheet, which is attached to the FONSI.

The FONSI, Errata Sheet, and EA are available online at: <a href="http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glca">http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glca</a>. Paper or CD copies may be obtained by writing to Superintendent, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040.

- www.nps.gov/glca -